

CELEBRATION OF THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
OF DISCOVERY OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

127
C6 V5
copy 1

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE SUBMITTING A COMMUNICATION FROM THE STATES OF VERMONT AND NEW YORK RELATING TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

APRIL 30, 1908.—Read; referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith a report by the Secretary of State submitting a formal communication from the States of Vermont and New York, made to the Government of the United States through the Department of State, to the end that the Federal Government may make provision for national participation in the proposed celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain.

As recommended by the Secretary of State, the memorial is laid before the Congress with a view to appropriate action.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 30, 1908.*

THE PRESIDENT:

I transmit herewith a joint memorial of the States of Vermont and New York relating to the celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain.

This memorial is a formal communication from the States of Vermont and New York, made to the Government of the United States through the Department of State, to the end that the Federal Government may make provision for national participation in the proposed celebration.

I respectfully recommend that the memorial be laid before Congress with a view to appropriate action.

Respectfully submitted.

ELIHU ROOT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Washington, April 29, 1908.

2-35479

JOINT MEMORIAL OF THE STATES OF VERMONT AND NEW YORK RELATING TO THE
TERCENTENARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

To the Honorable ELIHU ROOT,

Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: The Lake Champlain Tercentenary commissions of Vermont and New York, acting jointly, beg leave to submit herewith a brief recital of the steps taken to provide a fitting celebration in July, 1909, of the three hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain and of the territory of the present States of Vermont and New York by Samuel Champlain, the French explorer.

ACTION ON THE PART OF THE STATE OF VERMONT.

The movement looking toward the celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain was inaugurated by the introduction and adoption by the Vermont legislature of a joint resolution approved November 15, 1906, by his excellency Governor Fletcher D. Proctor, the text of which follows:

Joint resolution for the appointment of a commission for the three hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain.

Whereas the discovery of Lake Champlain was an event in history fully as important as many others that have been recognized by various States, as well as by the National Government; and

Whereas the three hundredth anniversary of such discovery will occur on July 4, 1909: It is hereby

Resolved by the senate and house of representatives, That this event should be observed in a fitting manner, and to bring about an observance commensurate with its importance there is hereby provided a commission, consisting of the governor, who shall be chairman ex officio, and six other members, to be appointed by the governor before January 1, 1907, one of whom shall act as secretary. Said commission is hereby empowered to adopt such measures as in its judgment may be reasonable or necessary to bring about the fitting observance of such event. And as the interests of the State of New York and the Dominion of Canada are allied with those of Vermont in such observance, it is hereby recommended that said commission confer with the proper authorities of New York and Canada to ascertain what action they or either of them will take with Vermont in making the observance of this event successful and a credit to all, and that the commission report the result of such efforts, together with its recommendations, to the general assembly of 1908.

The members of said commission shall receive no pay for services rendered except their necessary expenses.

The secretary of said commission shall be allowed such sum for services rendered as may be fixed by said commission.

The auditor of accounts is hereby authorized to draw an order for such expenses and allowance when approved by the governor.

THOMAS C. CHENEY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
GEORGE H. PROUTY,
President of the Senate.

Approved November 15, 1906.

FLETCHER D. PROCTOR,
Governor.

STATE OF VERMONT, *Office of the Secretary of State:*

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution for the appointment of a commission for the three hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain," approved November 15, 1906, as appears by the files and records of this office.

Witness my signature and the seal of this office, at Montpelier, this 22d day of February, 1907.

[SEAL.]

FREDERICK G. FLEETWOOD,
Secretary of State.

Acting in accordance with the foregoing resolution, Governor Proctor appointed the following commission, of which he is ex officio chairman: Fletcher D. Proctor, chairman. Proctor; Walter E. Howard, Middlebury; Lynn M. Hays, Essex Junction; Horace W. Bailey, Newbury; M. D. McMahon, Burlington; R. W. McCuen, Vergennes; Walter H. Crockett, St. Albans.

The commission organized by electing Walter E. Howard chairman pro tempore and Lynn M. Hays secretary.

On March 23, 1907, committees were appointed to visit Albany, N. Y., and Ottawa, Canada, for the purpose of inviting the State and the Dominion to co-operate with Vermont in the proposed celebration. The committee to visit New York State presented the plan to his excellency Governor Hughes, and it met with his approval and was strongly indorsed by members of the New York legislature.

At Ottawa the committee was received by Sir Wilfred Laurier, who enthusiastically approved of the proposed celebration and said he would be pleased to have his country well represented on the occasion and that an invitation from the Government of the United States would be cordially welcomed.

September 6, 1907, the two commissions met at Hotel Champlain, Bluff Point, N. Y., and upon resolution the chairman of each commission appointed a subcommittee, one of its duties being to confer with the Secretary of State at Washington relative to the part France, Great Britain, and Canada should take in the proposed event.

The visit of these subcommittees to the Secretary of State is more fully stated further on in this joint memorial.

It may be well to state that the members of the subcommittee of the Vermont commission called on President Roosevelt, who approved of the project and promised to lend it his full support.

Governor Proctor will in his retiring message next October bring the whole matter fully to the attention of the Vermont legislature, making at that time recommendations to the legislature.

The report of the New York commission to the legislature, which sets forth the desires and intentions of that commission, is indorsed by the Vermont commission.

ACTION ON THE PART OF NEW YORK STATE.

The Lake Champlain Tercentenary Commission of New York State, created in April last by the legislature, was charged with the duty of conferring with a commission already existing representing the State of Vermont and with representatives of the Dominion of Canada, and to report to the legislature of 1908 a plan for the proposed celebration.

To this end various conferences have been held with representatives of Vermont. In September last members of the two commissions, including the governor of New York and the governor of Vermont, made a tour of inspection of historic points on Lake Champlain. On December 4, 1907, a subcommittee of the New York commission and members of the Vermont commission had the honor of a conference with the Secretary of State at Washington, with a view to enlisting the interest of the Federal Government in the proposed celebration. At a subsequent joint meeting of the New York and Vermont commissions in Albany, resolutions were adopted in which it was directed that a suitable memorial be submitted to the Federal Government through the Department of State, requesting that the Federal Government make suitable appropriation for the proposed celebration and that it be asked to invite therein the participation of Canada, and also to invite and entertain representatives of the Republic of France, the Kingdom of Great Britain, and the Dominion of Canada.

Governor Hughes in his annual message to the legislature dwelt upon the proposed celebration with approval, and recommended it to the legislature for a suitable appropriation.

The New York State commission, after various conferences, drafted a report to the legislature, of which a copy is hereto appended, and to which we beg to refer you for a more detailed statement of the action of the New York commission. Incorporated in the report is a draft of a bill which has been introduced in the New York legislature providing for the creation of a permanent commission to carry out the purpose of the act and making a suitable appropriation therefor. The amount recommended by the senate finance committee is \$50,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, in place of \$100,000, as stated in the first draft of the bill attached hereto.

In view of the international character of the event which it is proposed to celebrate, your commissions feel that it is desirable to include in the celebration as guests of the United States, representatives of France, Great Britain, and Canada. It is also especially desired, and your memorialists most respectfully ask, that suitable provision be made for attendance at said celebration, or participation therein, of such civil, military, and naval representatives of the Government of the United States as may be hereafter designated.

In accordance with the suggestion made on the occasion of the visit of the subcommittee representing the two States, that the matter of inviting and entertaining representatives of France, Great Britain, and Canada be under the direction of the Department of State, and that the United States Government make adequate provision therefor, we, the undersigned members of the two commissions, hereby respectfully request that you lay this matter before the President and Congress of the United States, with such recommendation as may seem advisable.

In the hope that action may be taken at the present session of Congress, we do respectfully subscribe ourselves,

FLETCHER D. PROCTOR,
WALTER E. HOWARD,
LYNN M. HAYS,
HORACE W. BAILEY,
M. D. McMAHON,
R. W. McCAM,
WALTER H. CROCKETT,

*Commissioners for the
State of Vermont.*

CHARLES E. HUGHES,
LEWIS STUYVESANT CHANLER,
J. W. WADSWORTH, JR.,
HENRY W. HILL,
JOHN C. R. TAYLOR,
ALONSON T. DOMINY,
JAMES A. FOLEY,
FRANK S. WITHERBEE,
JOHN H. BOOTH.

*Commissioners for the
State of New York.*

ALBANY, April 10, 1908.

REPORT OF THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN TERCENTENARY COMMISSION OF NEW YORK STATE.

(Transmitted to the legislature March 23, 1908.)

STATE OF NEW YORK,
In Senate, March 23, 1908.

To the legislature of the State of New York:

I have the honor to submit herewith the report of the Lake Champlain tercentenary commission of New York State.

CHARLES E. HUGHES,
Chairman.

REPORT.

To the Legislature of the State of New York:

The Lake Champlain Tercentenary Commission of New York State respectfully submits the following report of action taken and suggestions for proposed action in the matter for which the Commission was created.

April 15, 1907, Mr. Hill offered in the Senate the following concurrent resolution, authorizing the appointment of a commission to confer with commissioners from Vermont and the Dominion of Canada in relation to the observance of the tercentenary of Lake Champlain:

RESOLUTION CREATING THE COMMISSION.

"Whereas the discovery of Lake Champlain by Samuel Champlain, on July 4, 1609, antedates the discovery by the whites of any other portion of the territory now comprising the State of New York, and was an event worthy of commemoration in the annals of the State and nation; and

"Whereas the State of Vermont, in 1906, appointed a commission, consisting of the governor of that State and six other commissioners, to confer with commissioners to be appointed on the part of New York and the Dominion of Canada, to ascertain what action, if any, ought to be taken by such States

and the Dominion of Canada for the observance of such tercentenary: Therefore be it

Resolved (if the assembly concur) that a commission, consisting of the governor, who shall be chairman, ex-officio, two citizens to be designated by him, the lieutenant-governor, the speaker of the assembly, two senators, to be designated by the lieutenant-governor, and two members of the assembly, to be designated by the speaker, be appointed to represent the State of New York at such conference, with power to enter into negotiations with the commissioners representing the State of Vermont and those representing the Dominion of Canada for the observance of such tercentenary, and that such commission report the results of their negotiations, together with their recommendations thereon, to the legislature of 1908.

"That such commissioners receive no pay for their services and that their necessary expenses be paid by the State, but such payment shall not exceed the amount expressly appropriated therefor."

The above resolution was adopted by the senate April 15, 1907, and by the assembly concurring without amendment April 16, 1907.

For the expenses of the commissioners appointed under this resolution, \$2,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, was appropriated by chapter 578 of the laws of 1907.

Governor Hughes appointed as members of said commission the Hon. Frank S. Witherbee, of Port Henry, and the Hon. John H. Booth, of Plattsburg.

The lieutenant-governor designated the Hon. Henry W. Hill, of Buffalo, and the Hon. John C. R. Taylor, of Middletown.

The speaker of the assembly named the Hon. Alonson T. Doniny, of Beekmantown, and the Hon. James A. Foley, of New York City.

JOINT MEETING OF THE NEW YORK AND VERMONT COMMISSIONS.

At a joint meeting of the Vermont and New York commissions, held at Hotel Champlain, Bluff Point, September 6, 1907, His Excellency Governor Hughes presiding, Governor Proctor, of Vermont, and six members of the Vermont commission were present, as were also all of the New York commission, except the lieutenant-governor, the speaker, and the Hon. Frank S. Witherbee, absent in Europe. Mr. Victor H. Paltsits, State historian of New York, also attended by invitation. Mr. Frank H. Severance, of Buffalo, was chosen secretary of the New York State commission.

The chairman stated the general purpose of the commissions and the desirability of reaching definite suggestions for carrying out the work. On motion of Senator Hill a subcommittee of three was created, to be appointed by the chair, the governor being chairman ex-officio of the said subcommittee, who should confer with the Secretary of State at Washington as to advisable steps to be taken in regard to bringing the proposed celebration to the attention of the Republic of France, the Kingdom of Great Britain, and the Dominion of Canada.

The subcommittee subsequently appointed consisted of Hon. Henry W. Hill, chairman, Hon. Frank S. Witherbee, and Hon. John H. Booth.

A TOUR OF INSPECTION.

A tour of inspection of historic sites on Lake Champlain having been determined upon, members of the two commissions, including the governor of New York, the governor of Vermont, and a few guests, left Hotel Champlain on the morning of September 7, 1907, on two yachts.

As they passed northward places of historic interest were pointed out, and every island, every bay and headland was found to have its associations. The attention of your commission was especially directed at the outset to Valcour Island, just off the New York shore near Plattsburg. This island, now in part owned by the Federal Government, has played an important part in three wars. On October 13, 1759, Captain Loring, of Amherst's army, pursued a French schooner and three sloops, under the shelter of Valcour. Two of the sloops were here sunk, and the third was run aground by her crew. The naval engagement of October 11, 1776, between the American and British fleets, was off Valcour, which was also within the theater of the engagement of September 11, 1814.

Other islands in this part of the lake share the history of these events. It was from Schuylers Island, October 12, 1776, that Benedict Arnold wrote to General Gates, announcing the loss of two vessels of the American fleet.

The commissioners crossed the bay which was the scene of Macdonough's brilliant victory of September 11, 1814, in which the American loss was over 200 and the British loss over 300. Special note was taken of Crab Island, where the Americans placed their sick, September 7 to 10, and where the convalescent soldiers built and manned a battery. Here is the burial ground where were interred the soldiers and marines killed in the battle of September 11, 1814.

Just beyond we passed Cumberland Head, with associations not only of the war of 1812, but of the Revolution. Here it was, in June, 1777, that Burgoyne's army rested for several days.

Farther north, on the New York side, Point au Fer was passed. This famous point, visited by many of the early expeditions, was fortified by General Sullivan in 1776. In June of the next year it was occupied by Burgoyne; and the British remained in possession until 1788, after the close of the war.

Near the north end of the lake, among other places noted by your commission, is Windmill Point, so named from a mill and settlement built there by the French in 1731. The Canadian boundary line runs about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of this point. An interesting association relates to a visit made to this place in the autumn of 1766 by Sir Henry Moore, governor of New York colony, and Sir Guy Carleton, governor of the Province of Quebec. Their object was to ascertain where the boundary ran which had been fixed by royal order at the forty-fifth degree. "After encountering many difficulties," the governor of New York subsequently wrote to the lords of trade (November 7, 1766), "we fixed the limits on the River Sorell (now known as the Sorell or Richelieu, the outlet of Lake Champlain), about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles below Windmill Point, which is farther to the northward than we imagined to find it from the observations which were said to be made there by the French some few years ago."

During this visit of the two governors at Windmill Point they were visited by a number of French gentlemen from Quebec, who sought a confirmation of their rights in seigneuries granted to them before the conquest of Canada and now found to extend south of the Canadian boundary line. The adjustment of these old seigneurial grants, and questions relating thereto, ran through many years, and constitutes a considerable chapter in the international history of this region. The boundary line was fixed by an order in council (Report of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council) August 12, 1768.

Your commissioners made their first landing at Sandy Point, on Isle la Motte, the site of the first French settlement in the valley; thence, after dinner at the home of the Hon. Nelson W. Fisk, Isle la Motte, going to Burlington, where the commissions were the guests of the Burlington Commercial Club and of the Ethan Allen Club. Various points of interest in the city and vicinity were visited, and the following day as many of the commissioners as could arrange went by steamer to Crown Point and afterwards to Ticonderoga, where the sites and ruined fortifications were inspected.

CONFERENCE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

On December 4, 1907, the Hon. Henry W. Hill and the Hon. Frank S. Witherbee, of the above-named subcommittee, visited Washington, where Messrs. Lynn M. Hays and Walter H. Crocket, of the Vermont commission, joined them in a visit to the Secretary of State, the Hon. Elihu Root, with whom a conference was held, at which there were also present, besides the commissioners, Senators Proctor and Dillingham and Representative David J. Foster.

The commissioners laid the proposed plan of celebration and commemoration before the Secretary of State, with a view of ascertaining the action which he would approve in the matter on the part of the Government of the United States. The Secretary inquired what New York State and Vermont were likely to do in the way of appropriations; and was informed that both States were expected to make suitable appropriations, and that it was deemed important that representatives of the Governments of France, of Great Britain and Canada be invited through the Federal Government to be present as its guests at such celebration.

Secretary Root expressed his approval. In his view the Federal Government might with propriety invite such representatives; and he stated his willingness to recommend to the President that a suitable appropriation be made for their entertainment.

The Secretary of State further expressed to the commissioners his most cordial approval of the proposed celebration, and deep interest in it, especially on account of its international features and because of its historical character, illustrating as it would the period of discovery and settlement, and the development of American institutions.

ACTION TAKEN AT ALBANY DECEMBER 21, 1907.

At a joint meeting of the New York and Vermont commissions, held at Albany, December 21, 1907, the following resolutions, which had been adopted by the special subcommittee and reported to a meeting of the whole commission at the executive mansion, Governor Hughes presiding, were adopted:

Resolved, That it is the judgment of the subcommittee of the Lake Champlain Tercentenary Commission that the tercentenary discovery of Lake Champlain and the historic events following during the colonial and revolutionary periods, and also of the war of 1812, be celebrated in an appropriate and fitting manner in July, 1909, in the valley of Lake Champlain, with appropriate exercises to be determined upon by the commission having that matter in charge.

Resolved, That a permanent memorial to commemorate the discovery by Samuel Champlain be erected at some point in the Champlain Valley; and that the State of New York make suitable appropriation for such celebration, and also a suitable appropriation toward defraying the cost of said memorial, sharing therein with the State of Vermont and any other contributors thereto.

Resolved, That a suitable memorial be prepared on the part of the commission of the State of New York and on the part of the commission of the State of Vermont, if they concur, to be presented through the Secretary of State to the Federal Government, requesting that the Federal Government, through the Department of State, or a commission, as it may decide, participate in the proposed celebration; and that the Federal Government be requested to make suitable appropriation therefor; and that the Federal Government be requested to invite the participation of Canada and also to invite and entertain representatives of the Republic of France, the King of Great Britain, and the Dominion of Canada.

SUNDRY SUGGESTIONS.

In free discussion among the members of the commissions it was developed that in the judgment of the commissions the proposed celebration should include exercises to be held at Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Plattsburg, Burlington, Isle la Motte, and, if found feasible, at a convenient point in Canada. Other suggestions were:

That on Sunday, July 4, 1909, religious services of a character appropriate to the anniversary be held, if possible, at suitable points, especially at Cliff Haven, at Isle la Motte, and in the cathedral at Burlington, under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church.

Also, that said celebration shall include such musical features as may be found desirable, and, if possible, an aquatic pageant, with fireworks, electrical display, and other appropriate features. It is understood and expected that the annual meetings of regattas of canoe, motor boat, or yacht clubs may be held at this time on Lake Champlain, contributing attractive features to the celebration.

It was further suggested, with the approval of the members present, that the fraternal orders represented in the Champlain Valley be invited to join in the celebration and to appear in regalia in appropriate parades as opportunity may offer.

After some discussion as to the practicability of participation by patriotic societies, it was voted that the secretary of the New York commission procure data relative to the patriotic societies represented in the Champlain Valley and submit it at a future meeting of the commission, that the commission may act with more adequate information on this subject.

A MEMORIAL VOLUME RECOMMENDED.

A further suggestion, which appeals with force to your commission, is that there should be provided for, to be published by the State of New York, a suitable memorial volume, to be issued as soon as practicable after the celebration, which shall contain a general report of your commission; a report of the cele-

bration and memorial exercises; a suitable historical sketch of the Champlain region; a bibliography of the works of Champlain and works relating to him; a cartography of Lake Champlain, and such other features as may be determined upon.

APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE EXPRESSED IN THE ANNUAL MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

That the governor of New York State heartily approves of the proposed celebration is shown in his message transmitted to the legislature on January 1 last.

"Fitting preparation," he said, "should be made for the celebration in the year 1909 of the three hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain. This," he adds, "is an event of interstate and international importance, and a commission representing this State is cooperating with a Vermont commission in perfecting suitable plans. It is hoped that the Federal Government will give assistance, and that through its offices the government of the Dominion of Canada and the Republic of France will be invited to participate."

THE VERMONT COMMISSION.

The Vermont commission, it should be noted, was created by the act of the Vermont legislature, session of 1906-7. It is officially designated "The Lake Champlain Tercentenary Commission of Vermont," and is constituted as follows: Chairman, his excellency the Hon. Fletcher D. Proctor, governor of Vermont; chairman pro tempore, Walter E. Howard, Middlebury; secretary, Lynn M. Hays, No. 196 Main street, Burlington; and Messrs. Horace W. Bailey, Newbury; M. D. McMahon, Burlington; R. W. McCuen, Vergennes, and Walter H. Crocket, St. Albans. This commission, it may be observed, is a permanent organization for the accomplishment of the object for which it was created, with power to enter into and perfect arrangements with a similar commission representing New York State when it shall have been created, and to plan, superintend, and carry out the proposed celebration and erection of a memorial on the part of Vermont.

POPULAR INTEREST IN THE MATTER.

As the public, not only in New York State and Vermont, but in neighboring States as well, have learned of these preliminary preparations, great interest has been shown in the matter.

In Vermont the press very generally has joined in expressions of approval of the project. The Vermont commission has been prompt to signify its readiness to cooperate in every way possible with New York. Its subcommittee, consisting of the Hon. Walter E. Howard, chairman, Messrs. Lynn M. Hays, and Walter H. Crocket, have reported a resolution in which they "recommend to the Vermont commission that the three hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain by Samuel Champlain be celebrated in a manner fitting the occasion by the State of Vermont, acting in conjunction with the State of New York." The full Vermont commission have also planned to organize a publicity bureau for the purpose of creating sentiment in the interests of the proposed celebration.

In New York State, also, the press in many sections has shown marked interest in and approval of the project. So, too, have various patriotic and historical societies.

ACTION OF PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES.

The following resolutions, adopted by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Buffalo Chapter, on November 22, 1907, were officially indorsed by the New York State conference, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, and in substance have been adopted by several other of the patriotic societies having chapters in this State:

Whereas Buffalo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, has learned with deep interest of the preliminary steps taken by the State of New York regarding a contemplated celebration jointly with the State of Vermont and Province of Quebec of the discovery and first exploration of Lake Champlain, said suggested celebration to occur on the three hundredth anniversary of the discovery, in July, 1909; and

Whereas we regard this discovery and the events flowing therefrom as of paramount importance in the history of this State. In the colonial, as in the revolutionary period and that of the war of 1812, the valley of Lake Champlain was the theater of many stirring operations and decisive engagements. With its beautiful waters, its hills and headlands, its storied islands, and ruined fortifications the annals and traditions of the Daughters of the American Revolution are intimately woven: Therefore

Resolved, That we, members of the Buffalo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, hereby urge upon the legislature of the State of New York the desirability of heartily indorsing the proposed plan of celebration.

Resolved, That in our view it is especially desirable that in connection with the proposed celebration one or more of the historic sites in the Champlain Valley be acquired by the State of New York for the suitable preservation of its landmarks and the enjoyment of the public; or that, if this should not prove feasible, that the erection of some permanent memorial be included in the action of the State.

The following letter from the secretary of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York, further indicates the interest that has been aroused and the cooperation which awaits the action of your honorable body:

SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL WARS IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, ROOM 62.

45 William Street, New York, February 20, 1908.

HON. HENRY W. HILL,

Chairman of the Subcommittee, New York Lake Champlain

Tercentenary Commission, Senate Chamber, Albany, N. Y.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the following resolution adopted by this society through the council:

Whereas the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York has been informed of the proposed celebration jointly by the States of New York and Vermont and the Province of Quebec in commemoration of the discovery of Lake Champlain, to occur on the three hundredth anniversary thereof in July, 1909: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York hereby declares that it is in hearty sympathy with such proposed celebration and that it is its intention to hold a reunion at Lake Champlain in connection therewith in July, 1909, and that it appoint a committee to confer as to the management therefor.

Yours, very truly,

HENRY GANSEVOORT SANFORD,

Secretary.

Other organizations as well, especially the historical and patriotic societies represented in the Champlain Valley, have expressed their ardent interest in the project and willingness to cooperate as may be desired.

HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF THE CHAMPLAIN REGION.

Your honorable body are familiar in general with the historic importance of the region in which it is proposed to hold this celebration and erect a memorial. It may be permitted, however, on the part of your commission to direct especial attention in this report to a few features of its history, which endow the Champlain Valley with extraordinary importance in the annals of New York State.

The entrance into the valley which now bears his name by the great explorer, Samuel Champlain, in July, 1609, constitutes the opening of the first chapter in the history of New York State.

It antedated by some months the discovery and exploration of the Hudson River, and it resulted in a sequence of events extending over a century and a half, in delivering the region which is now the great Commonwealth of New York from its condition of aboriginal darkness. After Champlain came the missionary, and with him and after him there came the trader; and presently from Lake Champlain to the Niagara River the power of France was established throughout New York State.

Your commission would call your particular attention to the extraordinary significance of the anniversary which it is desired to celebrate.

In discovering the lake that bears his name, Champlain also discovered the region that became New York State.

He was the first white man to behold any portion of our State or to set foot therein.

His visit in July, 1609, was not only the beginning of recorded history in New York State, but of a new era for the Western Continent.

FIRST CHRISTIAN WORSHIP IN VERMONT.

For many years after this initial voyage the waters of the Champlain Valley were the highway of many expeditions notable in colonial history. None was more notable than that which in the summer of 1666 erected on Isle la Motte the old Fort St. Anne and set up there the first Christian altar in what is now the State of Vermont. Throughout the following years of Indian warfare many a desperate enterprise occurred in this valley; and later, as the English colonists to the south found themselves in opposition to the power of France in Canada, the passing years saw an endless succession of war expeditions up and down the valley.

CROWN POINT AND TICONDEROGA.

Toward the end of the period of French control of the Champlain region, in 1731, the French made their most southern fortifications at what is now known as Crown Point. When your commission visited this historic site it found, in a most interesting state of preservation, not only the ruins of British military constructions, but of the earlier French outlines. The territory covered by these landmarks, or identified with them, passed from the ownership of New York State to Union and Columbia colleges. The property was partitioned in 1812, and in 1828 the trustees of Columbia College deeded the property to Sylvester Churchill. It subsequently passed through various hands and is now owned by Mr. Fred Nadeau, who resides in the neighborhood.

Similarly at Ticonderoga, where your commission carefully inspected the ruins, one finds reminders alike of American, of British, and of French occupancy. The title of Ticonderoga may be said to have been successively vested in the Indian aborigines, in the French down to 1759, in the English to 1775, with changing fortunes to the end of the Revolution; then (after perhaps a period of Federal control), in the State of New York, the regents of the university, and Columbia and Union colleges. In 1818 Mr. William F. Pell purchased the property of some 500 acres, including the old ruins and fortifications, from the two colleges mentioned, since which date it has been in the possession of his family, the ownership at present being vested in five of his descendants.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS.

That the places included in the proposed celebration are rich in historic association may be judged by citing a few of the many significant facts that might be presented.

Sandy Point on Isle la Motte, near the outlet of the lake, holds the ruins of Fort St. Anne, the first spot in which mass was said in the present State of Vermont. Its military associations under the French include the names of de Tracy, Levis, Bourlamaque, and Bougainville. Of even more significance it is in the annals of the Roman Catholic Church. The great missionary, Dollier de Casson, ministered to the garrison there in 1667; and later three famous Jesuits, Fathers Fremin, Pierron, and Bruyas, labored there. In 1892 the site of the old fort was bought by the Reverend de Goesbriand, first bishop of Burlington, with a further purchase in 1895. A chapel with a statue of St. Anne, a great cross, and other structures were erected and blessed. It is a point of religious pilgrimage, and yearly on the Feast of St. Anne, July 26, thousands of devout pilgrims visit the spot to pray at the shrine, where are preserved relics of St. Anne and the Virgin.

IN DEFENSE OF NEW YORK'S RIGHTS.

Of surpassing interest to the American student and an especial source of pride to the resident of New York State are the expeditions sent out by the feeble colony of New York to maintain their rights against the encroachments or murderous incursions of the French and Indian allies to the north. When these enemies burned Schenectady and slaughtered its inhabitants in February, 1690, New York was stirred to a just retaliation; and it was through the Champlain Valley that John Schuyler (grandfather of Philip Schuyler of Revolu-

tionary fame) led his little force in a fleet of bark canoes against the enemy in Canada. His men were few, but they struck a sturdy blow for the rights of New York.

In 1691 Maj. Peter Schuyler led still another expedition against the hostile settlements, also by the Lake Champlain route. Numerous other expeditions followed in subsequent years. The annals of colonial New York show how time and time again Lake Champlain was both highway and battle ground where the rights of New York were defended and established.

EXPLOITS IN THREE WARS.

Lake Champlain throughout its whole length was the theater of important engagements and expeditions during the Revolutionary war. One needs but to mention Ethan Allen at Ticonderoga, Seth Warner at Crown Point, and Benedict Arnold at St. Johns. The battle which the latter fought October 11, 1776, near Valcour Island off Plattsburg, was one of the earliest naval battles in our history and one of the most heroic. The wreck of one of Arnold's vessels, the *Royal Savage*, still lies near Valcour Island.

Plattsburg and Cumberland Bay are memorable for engagements in the war of 1812, both on land and lake. Here it was, September 11, 1814, that McDonough won a brilliant victory over the British squadron under Downie. It was one of the decisive engagements which brought that war to a close with credit to the Americans.

As one passes up the lake to the south, the points of historic significance multiply, and recall, besides the later wars, the old French war with the exploits of "Rogers the Ranger:" the defense of Ticonderoga by Montcalm (July 8, 1758), when Abercrombie stormed the works only to retire, crestfallen and exhausted, with a loss of some 2,000 men. The next year, again in July (23d) British arms at Ticonderoga under Amherst scored a victory, and virtually ended the dominion of the French in the valley; and British it remained until that May morning (the 10th) in 1775, when Col. Ethan Allen made his sudden advent and demanded its surrender "in the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress."

Crown Point, the old French Fort Frederic, is peculiarly a landmark to the student, for it was not only the southernmost outpost of the French of Canada, but as early as 1742 it was reported to be, "with the exception of Quebec, the strongest work held by the French in Canada." Furthermore, it was of great strategic importance, for it commanded the open highway between French and English North America. Abandoned by the French in 1759, it was occupied by General Amherst (August 1), who gathered there 15,000 troops, and rebuilt it, stronger than before. During the Revolution the Americans held it until Burgoyne with 7,000 troops invested it (June 27, 1777), when the Americans abandoned it and retired to Ticonderoga.

LANDMARKS THAT SHOULD BE PRESERVED.

That the preservation of historic sites within our own boundaries meets the approval of the American people and is a source of satisfaction to them is proved by innumerable instances. Never do we hear any advocacy in favor of abandoning sites already acquired and suitably cared for, either by State or nation. But very often do we hear regret expressed that more sites, rich in historic associations, have not been thus acquired and safeguarded for the future.

Of no points in New York State is this regret oftener expressed than in regard to Crown Point and Ticonderoga. Indeed, the scenic beauties of these places would win for them approval as public parks, even had they no historic associations. But in addition to their great natural beauty and comparative accessibility for large numbers of people, they offer to the visitor a wealth of historic association equaled by few if any other spots in our State.

The ruins at Crown Point are the best preserved examples in America of the military constructions of their day and kind.

WHAT IT IS PROPOSED TO CELEBRATE.

In the view of your commission, the events above mentioned are a few of the many occurring in the valley of Lake Champlain which make it a worthy scene of a notable memorial celebration. We would celebrate the tercentenary of its

discovery; but that anniversary, which falls July, 1909, is also a fitting occasion for recalling, in speech and written record, in festival and in pageant, some of the other nation-building events in the three centuries of history of that region. For several of those events, as our report has shown, the month of July is the anniversary time, as well as of that first voyage through the lake by the explorer. In 1909, too, we would celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the introduction of steam navigation on Lake Champlain. For more than a century this lake has been a part of New York State's system of improved waterways, and for eighty-nine years it has been joined by canal with the canal system of the State and the Hudson River.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN IN LITERATURE.

One needs but turn to the literature of travel and description to find abundant records of the Champlain Valley in the narratives of travelers, especially Europeans. For many years, because of its beauty, its history, and its directness or convenience, the tour through Lake Champlain was a favorite one with foreign as well as American travelers. Peter Kalm, the famous Swedish botanist, describes at length his visit to the valley in 1749. Isaac Weld and John Maude, English artists who traveled in America at the close of the eighteenth century, describe it at length. Dr. Timothy Dwight, the famous president of Yale College, made elaborate record of its conditions as he found them in 1798.

Shortly after the close of the war of 1812, an English officer, Lieut. Francis Hall, of the Fourteenth Light Dragoons, traveled through the Champlain Valley and recorded with unusual detail the state of things as they then were. His narrative, printed in London in 1818, is a valued source of information for this particular period.

In 1842 Charles Dickens enjoyed the beauties of the lake tour, and in his *American Notes*, in marked contrast to many of his critical comments, he wrote in superlative praise of the steamboat service that he found on Lake Champlain.

PROGRESS OF THE CHAMPLAIN REGION.

These and many other travelers who have written of Lake Champlain have left a valuable record of conditions as they were at different periods. We have a picture of the lake when its shores were practically all wilderness. We see the bark canoe followed in turn by the rude batteau, the heavy sloop, then by various sail craft; later by the pioneer steamboat, and finally by the era of modern travel and conveyance, whether for passenger or freight, whether for business or pleasure, with all the useful appliances of steam and electricity.

Even more striking has been the evolution of the shores, where the remote pioneer settlements have been succeeded by scores of thriving communities.

The Champlain Valley embraces a populous and progressive portion of the Empire State. Our citizens in that valley have a just pride in its past, and are ready to promote in any way possible such commemorative celebration as the State may determine upon.

NEW YORK AND CHAMPLAIN.

New York State has never erected any memorial to the great explorer who first reached her shores.

So far as your commission is aware, the only monument to Samuel Champlain that has been erected in the United States is the modest but creditable statue unveiled in the village of Champlain in this State on July 4, 1907. The exercises included impressive religious services, a parade, military drills, etc., and a formal unveiling of the statue. Thousands of visitors shared in the exercises, especially those of French-American ancestry, whose pride and enthusiasm indicate the ardent indorsement which may be expected from this source for the proposed tercentenary celebration.

CHAMPLAIN ANNIVERSARIES ELSEWHERE.

Already the Dominion of Canada is preparing for a fitting celebration the coming summer of the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of Quebec.

Your honorable body will recall that the maritime provinces of Canada held a most successful celebration in June, 1904, of the three hundredth anniversary

of the founding of Port Royal and other events associated with Champlain, who first entered the Bay of Fundy in June, 1604. The memorial and festival features of this tercentenary celebration, so happily carried out by the people of New Brunswick, awakened very general interest.

The events of 1608, which the Dominion of Canada proposes to celebrate in 1908, stimulate and extend this popular interest, and direct attention in a marked degree to the historical importance of those events of 1609 which we recommend for distinguished observance by New York State in 1909.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF 1909.

Your commission respectfully submit the foregoing report to the consideration of the legislature of New York. The anniversary which we desire shall be suitably observed has great significance. Important as it is to the student of history, it makes a wider and stronger appeal to that large body of our citizens whose forefathers fought in the wars of the Champlain region, or were among the pioneers who transformed it from the wilderness.

But chief of all the considerations which we urge upon your attention is the international character of the proposed celebration. The history of the Champlain Valley belongs to the history of three great nations, whose cordial relations we believe will be promoted by the suitable observance of this significant date.

RECOMMENDATION.

To that end your commission, after careful investigation, reaches the conclusion that the three hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain should be suitably celebrated by New York State; and to that end we respectfully recommend the enactment of the following bill:

AN ACT To provide for the celebration of the tercentenary of the discovery of Lake Champlain, the appointment of a commission, prescribing its powers and duties and making an appropriation therefor.

The people of the State of New York, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The governor shall appoint five citizens of this State, the president pro tempore of the senate shall appoint three members of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly shall appoint three members of the assembly, who shall constitute and be known as the commission for the public celebration of the tercentenary of the discovery of Lake Champlain. The members of such commission shall serve without pay, but shall receive their necessary traveling and other expenses.

Sec. 2. The object of such commission shall be to plan and conduct a public celebration of the tercentenary of the discovery of Lake Champlain by Samuel Champlain in the month of July, 1609, and such other historical events following such discovery as such commission may deem of general public interest or worthy of commemoration.

Sec. 3. Such commission shall organize by electing a chairman, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as it may deem necessary, and may adopt such rules and regulations as it may deem proper for carrying into effect the purposes for which it is created, and shall have power to enter into negotiations and cooperate with the State of Vermont, the Government of the United States, the Dominion of Canada, and the Province of Quebec, or either or any of them, and with the various patriotic and historical societies of the State and Nation, in such celebration and may appoint committees of citizens from the various municipalities of the State. Such commission shall also have the power, either by itself or in cooperation with the State of Vermont, the Government of the United States, the Dominion of Canada, and the Province of Quebec, or any or either of them, to erect a suitable permanent memorial to the said Samuel Champlain in the valley of Lake Champlain. Such commission may also appoint committees from its members and may employ such assistants as it may deem necessary, fix their compensation, and define their powers and duties within the provisions of this act.

Sec. 4. Such commission shall audit and pay all bills and expenses incurred under this act and file the vouchers therefor with the comptroller of the State; keep an accurate record of all its proceedings and transactions, and shall submit to the legislature of 1910 a full and complete report thereof. It shall have

no power or authority to contract for the expenditure of any sum in excess of the amount herein appropriated, except such funds as have actually been paid into its treasury by public or private contribution for the erection of a memorial as herein provided, and it shall keep an accurate account of the receipt and disbursement of such contributions, if any, and include the same in its report to the legislature.

SEC. 5. The sum of \$100,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys not otherwise appropriated, for the purposes of this act, and payments shall be made by the State treasurer to the treasurer of such commission on the warrant of the State comptroller on the requisition of the chairman of such commission. In addition to the sum herein appropriated, the commission is authorized and empowered to receive and expend public and private contributions for any of the purposes hereinbefore set forth.

SEC. 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

The foregoing is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES E. HUGHES.
LEWIS STUYVESANT CHANLER.
HENRY W. HILL.
JOHN C. R. TAYLOR,
J. W. WADSWORTH, JR.
ALONSON T. DOMINY.
JAMES A. FOLEY.
FRANK S. WITHERBEE.
JOHN H. BOOTH.

FRANK H. SEVERANCE,
Secretary.

ALBANY, March 23, 1908.

O

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 112 842 5

